based entirely on commonsense. Assuming while not conceding the trappings of scandal, at the worst a bungling, the Minister has talked about high technology and he says that it is meant for culture and he is trying to educate the people for the use of the decoders. May I know what do the decoders decode? Secondly, is it to be used for horticulture, sericulture, agriculture or culture simpliciter? What sort of a culture is it for which it is to be used? If it is a culture simpliciter and the people have to be educated for this, does he think that the Members of Parliament are reasonably cultured so that he may start by selling them to the Members of Parliament who have a TV and I have one TV? *(Interruptions)*. Cricketing culture can't tolerate this sort of bungling. *(Interruptions)*. This is not correct. Would the decoder help the Indian team in West Indies when they have lost?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Cultural exchange.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: My question would be, if it is such a useful article, that it is very high technology and it is meant for culture, our nation needs both technology and culture. All of us know that. Therefore, will he briefly tell us, what is it meant for and start by selling it to the Members of Parliament at a reasonably concessional price?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: It is junk. Do not recommend it.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: To start with, ET&T will be prepared to install this decoder in the Central Hall to give a demonstration.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: What is the decoder?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: I am going to explain to the extent I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to have a class on decoder here? He can do that.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: It is basically for retrieving the teletext material and the information involved is, such as news, shares, stock market, forward trading, bullion and silver, foreign exchange, airlines arrival and departures *(Interuptions)*.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I am aware of that. I thought it was for decoding something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So you are satisfied.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Already on channel 2 they are being broadcast.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And he must be using it also.

* 104. [*The questioner (Shri Prithibi Majhi) was absent. For answere* vide *cols.* 32-33 infra.]

* 105. [*The questioner (Shri Suresh Pachouri) was absent. For answer* vide *cols.* 33-34 infra.]

Hazardous effects of Analgin

*106. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:†
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which had appeared in the Economic and Political weekly on March 4, 1989 under the heading "counterfact on Analgin";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the use of Analgin leads to disorder resulting in damage to bone marrow;

(c) whether it is also a fact that safer drugs for the same indications are available in the country;

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy.

(d) whether Government have not withdrawn this drug so far; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No conclusive statements can be made on the basis of studies available so far.

(d) the Drugs Technical Advisory Board took note of the Boston study for monitoring adverse reactions from Analgin and found no adequate basis to recommend withdrawal of the drug.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, the answer is really astonishing. If it goes on like this, the health of the whole nation would be in danger. There have been several reports and a number of articles both in India and abroad indicating the dangerous effects of analgin. A number of questions have been asked both in this House and outside and the Government has every time chosen to evade the reply. On the other hand, they have tried to support and encourage the multinationals at the cost of the health of the nation. This cannot be tolerated. The Government must seriously think over this. Why has this dangerous drug been imported in this country so that the life of the nation has been put in a dangerous condition? This drug is banned in a number of countries such as the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, etc. But in India, it is still being marketed. I do not know why. When all other countries have come to the conclusion that this is dangerous and banned its use, why has our Government not taken any decision to ban this dangerous drug? When Analgin has been withdrawn in a number of advanced countries, for human consumption, such as, as I said, U.S.A., Australia, Canada, due to dangerous effects monitored by these countries, i.e., causing extra risk of bone marrow disorders, what are the reasons for allowing the marketing of this drug in India? Specially, when safer drugs like Paracetamol, Aspirin and Ibuprofen are being marketed in the country which have not been withdrawn anywhere in the world as well as no report of dangerous effects of these drugs anywhere in the world. On the other hand, a number of reports have been published in various medial journals about the risk of bone marrow disorders due to the use of Analgin. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister why the Government of India has not taken a decision to ban this drug.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a number of quesions in one supplementary. I would be brief. In regard to the first part of his question, why Analgin has not been banned in this country, the question about banning the use of the drug, Analgin, either alone or in combination with other drugs, examined in consultation with the Drug Technical Advisory Board which is a statutory body. This drug is imported and marketed in a number of countries. A detailed study of the adverse affects of Analgin was being conducted by the Drug Epidemiology Unit of the Boston University and the Board agreed to defer the consideration of banning Analgin and its combinations till the results of this study were known.

Secondly, the hon. Member has pointed out about the procedure of banning drugs in the country. This question has been raised in the House many times in the past and I would just explain in brief the procedure in regard to withdrawal of drugs in the country. There is a well-laid-down procedure in this regard and information relating to withdrawal of certain drugs from the market by some countries is received by the Ministry mainly from the World

Health Organisation. On receipt of such information, the Drug Controller of India consults—he always consults medical experts in the country including the Indian Council of Medical Researh seeking their advice as to whether immediate action should be taken by the Government or not. In this regard, the decision to withdraw a drug from the market has to be taken after considering the extent of the use of this drug in the country, the availability of safer substitutes at reasonable prices and the benefit-risk consideration. There is no unanimity in the action taken by various countries.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: How can there be unanimity?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: There is no unanimity in regard to withdrawal of a drug. A drug withdrawn by one developed country may continue to be marketed by other developing contries like us.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: The hon. Minister has evaded the question. When there are alternative drugs which are available, which are safer, why has the Government not banned this drug? She has not answered this question. She has tried to evade it by saying something about some study. I do not know what is working in the mind of the hon. Minister. Sir my, second supplementary is, whether it is a fact that due to the pressure of a multinational drug company, which is marketing a finished medicine based on Analgin, that is, Novalgin, the Ministry has not been able to take action to withdraw the drug. Novalgin has a turnover running into many hundreds of crores and the company is even able to influence the experts. Kindly let me know whether it is a fact.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, definitely we are not influenced by any multinational company as such or by anybody. We always go by the advice of the Expert Committee. That is what I can say, Sir.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Is it hazardous to health or not? That is the question.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Sir, whenever there is any such controversy, the Ministry appoints an Expert Committee. The Expert Committee consists of officers and, above that, the report submitted by the Expert Commitee is put in cold storage and later on another committee is appointed. But is this the remedy for all these things? On the 28th of February 1988, they had replied on the floor of the House that so many countries, USA, UK, Denmark, Finland and Australia have all withdrawn it but, in spite of that, Analgin is being marketed in India. Now, to err on the safer side in the larger interests of the health of the people in this country, if safer drugs are available, safer drugs should be resorted to. Of course, I am not giving the names of the safer drugs—the honourable Minister might be knowing these things also. Aspirin is there, Paracetamol is there, any number of other things are there. But, then, why should we not resort to safer drugs and more effective drugs if they are available? That is No. 1. Number 2: An expert committee is not a substitute for a monitoring system. We haven't got a monitoring system in our country. Other countries have got monitoring systems and after working them if they have got certain results, why should not we also be benefited by those results? Or, is the Government going to have a monitoring system in our country also for all these things?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, I would like to correct the honourable Member. In her supplementary she has said that many countries have banned this drug. I would like to mention here, in this context, that the drug Analgin is marketed in 71

countries around including West Germany, France and Italy.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: What about the United States?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: In all these 71 countries, the approved indications of the drug indicate analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anti-spasmodic effects. Studies have been done both in India and abroad in this regard and it is claimed that these are the therapeutic claims.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: What about the monitoiring system?

कुमारी सईदा खातून : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्रीजी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में स्टेटवाइज एनालजिन से मरने वालों की संख्या कितनी है ? इसके अतिरिक्त इसके रोगग्रस्त मरीजों की संख्या कितनी है और इसके कारण मरने वालों के परिवारों को कितना कम्पनसेशन दिया है । कृपया स्टेटवाइज बताने का कष्ट करें ?

श्री सभापति : कुछ मरने वालों की खबर है आपको ?

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : सर, मुझे सदन के सामने कहना होगा कि यदि एनालजिन इतनी खतरनाक दवा समझी जाती तो शायद सरकार ने काफी पहले ही अपनी तरफ से इस दवा को बंद करने की कोशिश की होती । माननीय महोदया, ने यह भी पूछा है कि स्टेटवाइज मरने वालों की संख्या कितनी है और मरने वालों के परिवार के लोगों को कितना कम्पनसेशन दिया गया है, सर मुझे यह कहना होगा कि इस वक्त राज्यवार हमारे पास कोई इनफार्मेशन नहीं है ।

श्री एन०के०पी० साल्वे : लोग मरे हैं ?

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : सर, अभी तक छोटे या बड़े पैमाने पर लोग मरे हैं, इसकी कोई सूचना न मुझे है और न मंत्रालय को है । हमें कोई सूचना नहीं है।

MR. CHARMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indian Air Force Centre in Andhra Pradesh

*102. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Indian Air Force Centre functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. 12 Airmen Selection Centre is functioning at Begumpet (Secunderabad) and covers all the districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of research centres in recombinant DNA technology

*104. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up research centres in Recombinant DNA Technology during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Research in the use of Recombinant DNA technology is being conducted in various Scientific Research institutions and Universities in India working in the area of life sciences. It is expected that during